THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) There are guidelines for examining proposals for commemorative stamps and these, *inter-alia,* stipulate that a stamp may be issued on a personality of national or international importance on the occasion of birth centenary or to mark the 10th/25th/100th death anniversary.

(c) No, Sir. The proposal for issue of commemorative stamp on Shri Prabodhankar Thackeray was received in 1998 to mark his 25th death anniversary. After processing this could be issued in 2002.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Conversion of Telephone Exchanges into Electronic Exchanges in Rajasthan

1637. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA:

SHRI SANTHOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minster of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all telephone exchanges in all major cities of Rajasthan have been converted to electronic exchanges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the said conversion would take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All the 2223 exchanges in Rajasthan as on 15.7.2002 are of Electronic type.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Tele-Density Gap between Rural and Urban Areas

1638. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a wide gap between urban and rural areas in regard to tele-density in as much as for every 100 persons in rural areas only one person is having telephone connection against 10 in urban areas;